

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06482 231113Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 MC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3274

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

CHMAAG TAIPEI

COMUSTDC TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TW

SUBJ: PROPOSED SALE OF F-104D AND T-33 AIRCRAFT

TO ROC

REF: A. STATE 220319

B. TAIPEI 0687

C. TAIPEI 6483

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. F-104D PURCHASE:

A. THE ROCAF INVENT

BY OF TWO-SEAT F-104'S HAS

BEEN SEVERELY DEPLETED THROUGH ATTRITION. THEY
ARE DOWN FROM FOUR F-104B'S IN MID-SIXTES TO TWO AT
PRESENT, AND FROM EIGHT F-104G'S TO THREE AT PRESENT.

(SINGLE-/

ABLE F-104'S ARE DOWN FROM 79 TO 58.)

CURRENT LOW INVENTORY OF TWO-SEAT F-104'S SERIOUSLY
REDUCES ROCAF'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE
PROFICIENCY TRAINING TO F-104 AIRCREWS, AND IS
CONSIBK

LD BY BOTH ROCAF AND MISSION TO BE ONE OF

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06482 231113Z

MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS ROCAF FACES.

B. AIRCRAFT WHICH ROC CONSIDERED PURCHASING FROM FRG EARLIER THIS YEAR (REF B) WERE TWO-SEAT TF-104G'S (VICE F-104G'S) DESIRED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

C. F-104D IS ALSO A TWO-SEAT AIRCRAFT DESIRED BY ROCAF FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, AND COUNTRY TEAM STRONGLY SUPPORTS ROC REQUEST TO PURCHASE SIX F-104D'S.

2. T-33 TRAINER PURCHASE:

A. THE T-33 IS A TWO-SEAT BASIC TRAINER. AT PRESENT, ROCAF UNDERGRADUATE FIGHTER PILOT TRAINEES START IN THE PL-1 PRIMARY TRAINER AND PROGRESS TO THE T-28 AND T-33 BASIC TRAINERS. BECAUSE OF INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN SUPPORTING T S T-28 (AGE AND LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF PARTS)*ROCAF INTENDS TO MOVE FIGHTER PILOT TRAINEES DIRECT FROM PL-1 TO T-33, AND USE REMAINING SERVICEABLE T-28'S SOLELY FOR TRANSPORT PILOT TRAINEES.

B. IF THE PROPOSED T-33 PURCHASE IS NOT APPROVED, ROCAF PLANS TO DIVERT TO THE UNDERGRADUATE FIGHTER PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM T-33'S NOW ASSIGNED TO FIGHTER UNITS FOR INSTRUMENT AND BASIC TACTICAL PROFICIENCY TRAINING. SUCH A DIVERSION WOULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON FLIGHT PROFICIENCY AND FLYING SAFETY IN THE FIGHTER UNITS.

C. ROCAF INTENDS ULTIMATELY TO USE A TAIWAN-MANUFACTURED BASIC TRAINER, THE XT-CH-1 NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT, IN ITS PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM (REF C), BUT AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE T-28 IS SORELY NEEDED IN THE NEAR TERM. THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FIVE T-33'S WOULD BE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO SATISFY THIS VERY REAL CURRENT NEED, AND COUNTRY TEAM STRONGLY SUPPORTS ROC REQUEST.

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